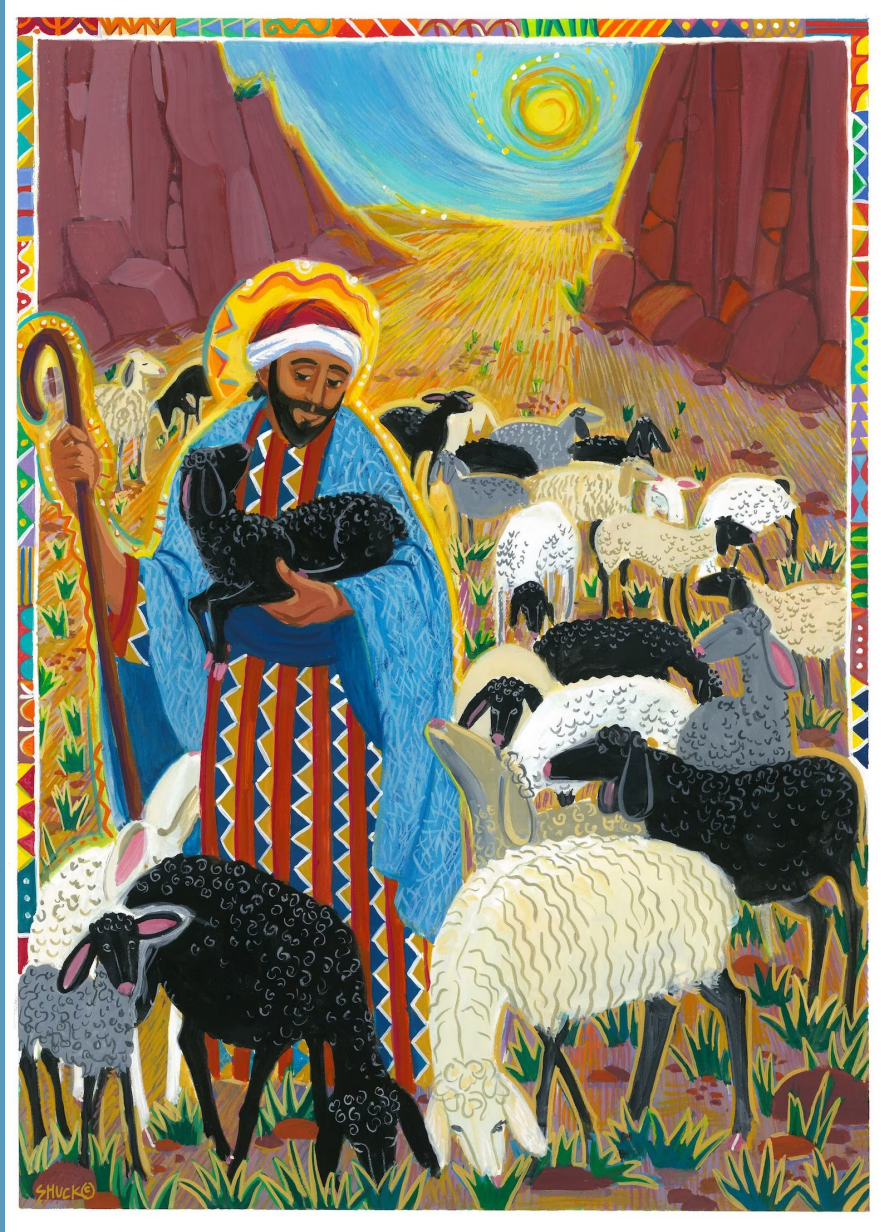


Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April 2024

The Good Shephard by Vicki Shuck

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

21 APRIL 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE | *Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist*
Brett Maguire, organist

George Böhm
(1661-1733)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | This is the Feast of Victory

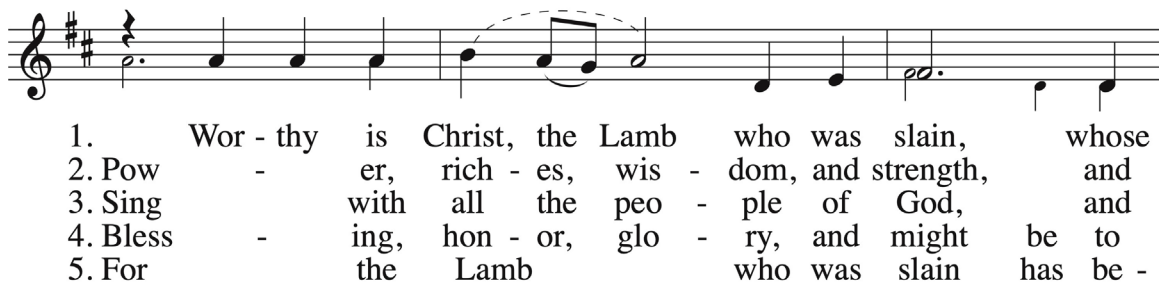
FESTIVAL CANTICLE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le -



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. lu - ia.



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.


✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Joy and Peace

Tony Alonso

Refrain




Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high-est, — and on



earth peace, on earth peace to peo - ple of good will. *to verses*

Verse 1




We praise you, we bless — you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri-fy you, we



give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, O God, al-migh-ty Fa-ther.


Verse 2



Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,



Son of the Fa - ther, — you take a-way the sins of the world, have



mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;



you are sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther, — have mer - cy on us.

Verse 3

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the
 Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
 with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. ___

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Acts 4: 8-12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 118: The Stone Rejected by the Builders

Martyr Haugen

The stone re-ject-ed by the build-ers has be-come the cor-ner-stone.

Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in anyone else;
it is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes. *R.*

I will thank you, for you have
answered,
and you are my savior.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes. *R.*

Blest is he who comes
in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the
LORD.

You are my God, I praise you.
My God, I exalt you.
Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever. *R.*

SECOND READING | 1 John 3: 1-2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL | John 10: 11-18

HOMILY

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

SPRINKLING RITE | Come to the River

Refrain

Come, O come, come to the riv - er
flow - ing from the bod - y of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the wa - ter,
*
but in the Lord we shall a - rise.

Verses

1. Washed in wa - ters of re-birth,
2. Priest - ly peo - ple are ___ we,
3. Blest are those ___ who ___ thirst
4. Let us walk ___ in the light
5. Those who sow ___ in ___ tears



1. we have put on Christ Je - sus.
2. sealed and sent by the Spir - it.
3. for the reign of God's jus - tice.
4. of God's ho - ly prom - ise.
5. reap the har - vest re - joic - ing.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

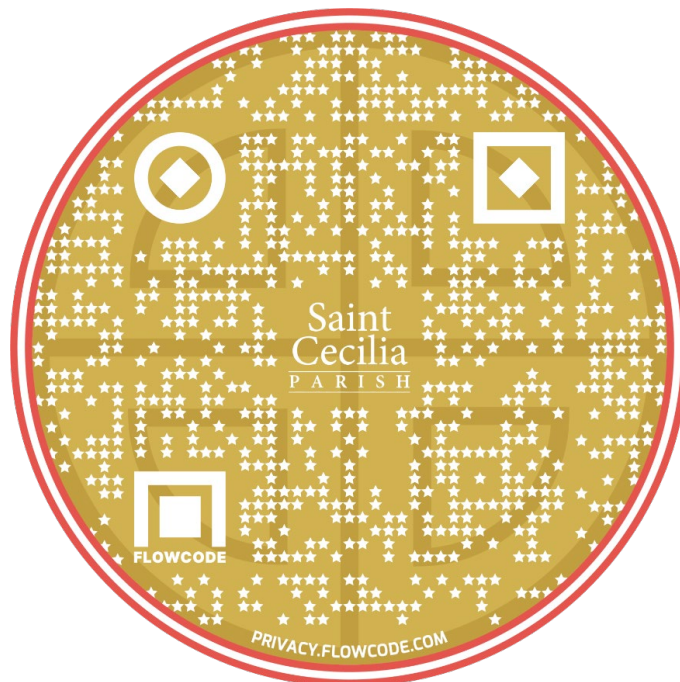
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone's screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your
6. And so, through all the length of days Your



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he's lead - ing, And, where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
you, dear Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my
sav - ing grace be - stow - ing; And, oh, what trans - port
good - ness fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!
sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
 earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
 san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
 he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ, the Savior

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
 Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ, the Savior

A - men. A - men. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
 Amen.

Cantor Lamb of God, *Assembly* you take a-way the sins of the

Repeat as desired world, have mer-cy on us. *Final* world, grant us peace.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion.” When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,
 I believe that you
 are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
 I love you above all things,
 and I desire to receive you into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace you as if you were already there
 and unite myself wholly to you.
 Never permit me to be separated from you.



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With



gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O



sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|------|-------|--------|-------------|------|
| 1. As | when the | shep - | herd | calls | his | sheep, | They |
| 2. With | joy - | ful | lips | we | sing | to you | Our |
| 3. Is | not | the | cup | we | bless | and share | The |
| 4. The | mys - | t'ry | of | your | pres - | ence, Lord, | No |
| 5. You | give | your - | self | to | us, | O Lord; | Then |



know and heed his voice; So when you call your
 praise and grat - i - tude, That you should count us
 blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er

D.C.



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff comfort me. You are my shepherd.
 Surely your goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

CONCLUDING RITES

- ✘ The Lord be with you.
 All: And with your spirit.

- ✘ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 All: Amen.

- ✘ Go forth, the Mass is ended.
 All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD HUNDREDTH



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With -
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap -
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His
 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The
 *Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise



to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, his
 out our aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 proach with joy his courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless his
 mer - cy is for ev - er sure; His truth at all times
 God whom heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, you



praise forth tell; Come we be - fore him and re - jice.
does us feed, And for his sheep he does us take.
Name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE | Toccata from "Suite Gothique"
Brett Maguire, *organist*

Léon Boëllmann
(1862-1897)

Music in this worship aid is printed with permission under Onelicense.net #A700-137.

For information on becoming involved or supporting the music program at Saint Cecilia,
please contact Dr. Robert Duff at 617-536-4548 or email: RDuff@stceciliaboston.org.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, April 20 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, lector

Sunday, April 21 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Esteban Vanegas, lector

Sunday, April 21 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Maggie Giles, Bobbi Moran, and Laura Melle, lectors

Sunday, April 21 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Tom Skorupa, Thomas O'Brien, and Kelly McClintock, lectors

Sunday, April 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Rev. John J. Unni, celebrant
Nikko Mendoza, lector

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 20 | 5:00 p.m.

Peggy Simms, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 21 | 8:00 a.m.

Sidney Farnsworth, *Memorial*
Louise Susanna Hicks, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 21 | 9:30 a.m.

Anna Gloddy, *Memorial*
John Faldetta, *Memorial*
George Mahon, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 21 | 11:30 a.m.

Catherine Mootos, *1st Anniversary*
Henry D. Vara Jr., *1st Anniversary*
Mary Olivieri, *Memorial*

Sunday, April 21 | 6:00 p.m.

The Maciora Family, *Memorial*

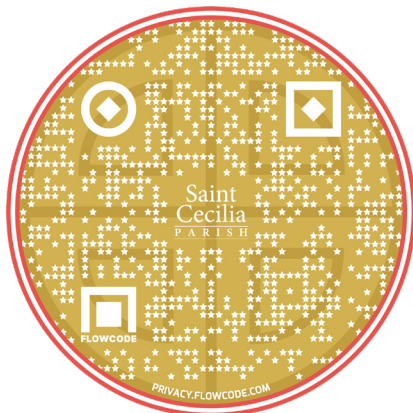
Wednesday, April 24 | 8:00 a.m.

Regina Maciora, *Anniversary*

Friday, April 26 | 8:00 a.m.

Faustyn & Anna Maciora & Family, *Memorial*

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jacqueline Lavelle, Glenn Gallo, Marc Pelletier, Michele Maniscalco, and Fred Tufts.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following new registrants: **Gwenn and Tobias Massini** of Berlin, NJ and **Meredith Sullivan** and **Olivia Young**, both of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Let us pray in a special way for the members of our parish who are catechists in our children's faith formation program. May the Lord continue to guide them as they partner with parents to help nurture the spiritual formation of the children they shepherd.

A Note Regarding the Six O'Clock Mass

The last six o'clock Mass will be on May 5, 2024. This Mass will resume in September.

Catholic Appeal Update

Because of your generous support, we have reached 71% of our monetary goal and 67% of our donor goal. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. We are stronger together and your generous participation is greatly appreciated! You can donate here: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate1/>

VILLANOVA SINGERS CONCERT

Saturday, April 20 | After 5:00 p.m. Mass
Saint Cecilia Church

Saint Cecilia is delighted to welcome the Villanova singers for a short concert in the church following the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on April 20. Founded in 1953, Villanova Singers is the university's oldest singing group. The group travels across the United States and internationally, performing a broad range of genres—from classical to pop. We hope you can join us!

SUMMER COFFEE HOSPITALITY

We will not have coffee hospitality for three holiday weekends in the summer—Memorial Day weekend, the Fourth of July weekend, and Labor Day weekend—so we can give our hardworking hospitality staff some time off to enjoy these holidays.



FATHER JOHN TO RECEIVE CATHOLIC MEMORIAL'S BLESSED EDMUND IGNATIUS RICE AWARD

Catholic Memorial's Gala will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood on Friday, May 10, 2024. The evening will honor the Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice Award recipient, Father John Unni, and raise essential funding for scholarships.

Fundraising on behalf of Father John will support The Fr. John Unni Endowed Scholarship, which honors his deep commitment to faith, learning, service, and the Boston Fire Department. This scholarship will support a student from a family employed by Boston Fire who is interested in serving the marginalized. We invite you to support this highly impactful event and make a difference in the lives of young men. For more information about tickets, sponsorships and to support The Fr. John Unni Endowed Scholarship, please visit www.catholicmemorial.org/gala or call Stephanie Truesdell, CM's Director of Institutional Advancement at (617) 469-8036.

SAINT CECILIA PARISH



LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE'S MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 12 | 8:00—10:00 a.m

Town Field Park, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA

Please join us on May 12 for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 28th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P). The Institute was formed in 1996 by a Boston mother who turned her grief into action after her teenage son was murdered. The Institute's goal is to empower survivors, Generation Peace and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss to cultivate cycles of peace and healing. Saint Cecilia Parish has supported the Institute's essential work for many years, and this year, we have set a parish goal of \$9,000 to contribute to the program's mission through their annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Your gift can have a lasting impact on the healing steps that move us toward peace through compassionate justice. We're pleased to announce that the parish will be matching gifts up to \$2,500, so please consider the doubled-impact of your gift as you give!



Visit our team page (<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/stcecilia>) on the Mother's Day Walk for Peace website to donate. You can also sign up to join our Walking Team for an unforgettable community experience. In particular, we are pleased to announce the program's founder, Chaplain Clementina Chéry, will join us after the 11:30 Mass on May 5 for a special visit and a presentation in Classroom 1. We hope you can attend!

For additional information about the Saint Cecilia Team, email our reception team to get Jeanne Bruno (the team leader)'s contact information!

HELP OUR FRIENDS AT WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE



Mother's Day cards will be sold this weekend in the Saint Cecilia narthex. By purchasing Mother's Day cards through their fundraiser, you help WLP provide a wide array of services for the most vulnerable women in our community, including healthy meals and individualized services that empower these women to make positive changes in their lives. The cards are

blank on the inside so they can also serve as a personal or "thank you" note.

In addition you can remember the woman in you life by sponsoring a meal at the Women's Lunch Place day shelter in her name:

- \$150: Provides one day of fresh fruit for all guests
- \$300: Provides one day of nutritious breakfast for all guests
- \$500: Provides one day of healthy lunch for all guests

And, of course, a Mother's Day card is included with each sponsorship.

For more information about this fundraiser, contact Mark Lippolt at the Hunger and Homelessness email address or you can order cards directly by visiting www.MothersDayCards.org. At checkout, please indicate that Katie Balian or Mark Lippolt referred you to this campaign.



Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

Join Father John and the Saint Cecilia Choirs
Under the Direction of Robert Duff on a



2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy

June 15-23, 2025

We will participate in Mass at:

- The Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi
- St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

The Saint Cecilia Choir will
perform two evening concerts:

- The Basilica di Sant'Andrea della Valle in Rome
- The Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere

Want to learn more?

If you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, Music Celebrations International will be hosting a presentation outlining this tour in the parish café at Saint Cecilia Church on Sunday, April 28, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Italian refreshments will be served!

We will visit Rome, Florence,
Assisi, and Vatican City.

Highlights include:

- A visit to La Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze, home to the largest number of Michelangelo sculptures in the world, including *David*
- A walking tour of the medieval town of Assisi, birthplace of Sts. Francis and Clare, including a visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi—one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Italy.
- A tour of the Vatican Museums which house some of the world's most important collections of art. Included will be a visit to the Sistine Chapel.
- A visit to St. Peter's Basilica, including the *Pietà*.
- A tour of the Colosseum and its arena floor, the Roman Forum.
- A tentative weekly Papal Audience and Blessing (subject to the Holy Father's schedule).
- Visits to the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain.
- Visits to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.



THE MCGOWAN TRUST

In 1998, Mr. John McGowan, a Saint Cecilia parishioner who possessed a keen interest in how music helps support the worshipping assembly during the liturgy, established a trust in favor of Saint Cecilia Parish. Since 1999, this trust, dedicated to the support of the parish music program, has provided Saint Cecilia with well over \$100,000. Mr. McGowan died shortly after establishing this trust. Please remember him in your prayer with gratitude for his foresight, generosity, and love of sacred music.

REMEMBER SAINT CECILIA PARISH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

For the past 136 years, gifts both large and small have made it possible for us to carry out our mission of prayer and service in the heart of the city. The generous bequests of parishioners and friends are critical to fulfilling the mission of Saint Cecilia Parish. Saint Cecilia provides outreach and pastoral support to many who live on the edge of poverty and who experience loneliness. These bequests also support our music program and the maintenance of our beautiful church and grounds. Remembering the Church in your estate planning says something about what was meaningful in your life. It's a way to ensure that the community you value will continue into the future, and it's a way to leave a legacy to those who will come after you.

For more information or for guidance on how to remember Saint Cecilia Parish in your will, please contact Director of Finance and Development Colleen Melaugh at her parish email address. You can also visit <https://bit.ly/3VRzcWr> to fill out a bequest form. Thank you!

BEARERS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT: AN INVITATION TO CAREGIVERS

Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

The Saint Cecilia CARES Ministry is pleased to be welcoming Katherine (Kate) Piderman, Ph.D., chaplain, researcher, and educator from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and member of the Far-Flung Flock to lead us in a half-day of prayer, input, reflection, and discussion entitled *Bearers of The Most Important Gift*. This program runs from 9:00 a.m. (8:45 a.m. arrival) to 1:30 p.m. and includes morning coffee and pastries, as well as lunch. Topics include our Christian identity, our call to service, and being like Jesus in our ministry and beyond.

Are you a caregiver offering spiritual support to a loved one? We invite you to join this CARES Ministry day of reflection by emailing the CARES Ministry email (RSVP is required if you're not currently a CARES minister).

About the Facilitator: With extensive experience in ministry and education, Kate aims to foster affirmation and growth in spiritual caregiving. In this session, Kate will share examples from her own life and ministry, and encourage others to do so too, so we might learn from each other's experiences. Her education includes master's degrees in education, pastoral studies, and scripture, and a PhD in psychology. Currently, Kate is an associate professor at the Mayo College of Medicine, contributing to research in spirituality and health.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Sunday, May 5, 1:00 p.m. Community Room

VIRTUS is the umbrella term for a two-part training designed to keep children safe in the parish setting. The Archdiocese requires this two-part training of all volunteers and staff who have the potential for direct contact with children or the vulnerable due to their involvement in the parish. The first part, Protecting God's Children (or PGC), is a training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms that a child is being abused and how to talk with children about these issues. The second part is a mandated reporter training. All parish staff and volunteers are mandated reporters and are required to attend this one-time training. If you intend to volunteer in the future and haven't attended this training before, please join us. Please note that both parts will be covered in Sunday's session and the training will be approximately 3 hours, including videos and group discussion. Please help us by officially registering for this course on May 5 at 1:00 p.m. at <https://www.virtusonline.org/>. Doing so will create a permanent record of your participation and completion of the training. If you can't register online, please join us anyway and come a few minutes early so you can be registered in the system. Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you!

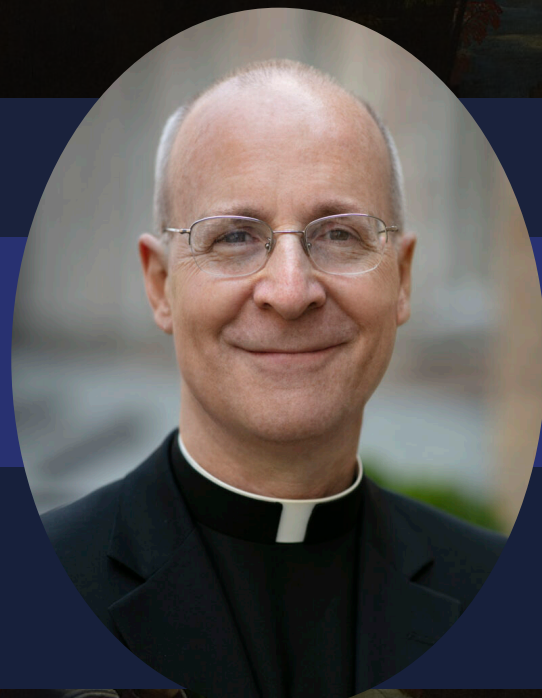
Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

Saint Cecilia Parish is honored to present

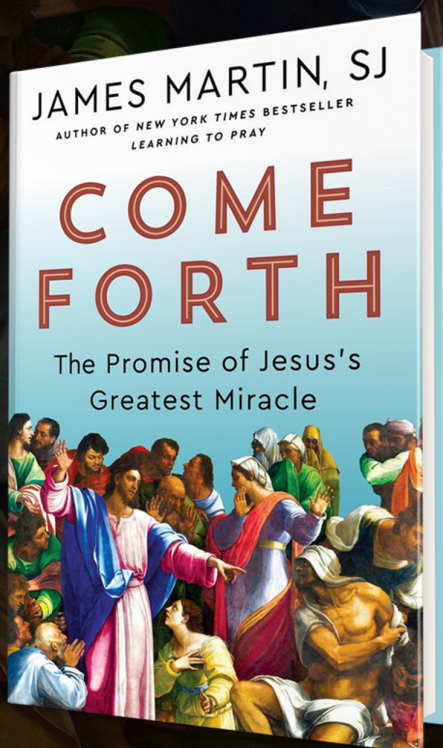
AN EVENING WITH

JAMES MARTIN, SJ



Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Saint Cecilia Church, Boston

Copies of Father Martin's latest book, *Come Forth: The Promise of Jesus's Greatest Miracle* will be on sale before and after the presentation. Following the presentation, Father Martin will be available to sign books.



James Martin, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, editor-at-large of *America* and bestselling author of many books including *My Life with the Saints*; *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*; *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*; and *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*. He is a frequent commentator on religion in the national and international media.

18 Belvidere Street | Boston | 617 536 4548 | www.stceciliaboston.org



SUPPORT OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Spring is traditionally the time of year when the majority of the nonprofit agencies Saint Cecilia supports through our Hunger & Homelessness Ministry have their most critical fundraisers. We invite you to learn more below.

Wednesday, May 1

LifeSavor — Community Servings

Location: Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse Galleria, Back Bay
Information about the event: <https://www.servings.org/lifesavor/>

Thursday, May 2

Home Remedy — Pine Street Inn

Location: Hilton Boston Park Plaza Hotel | Information about the event:
<https://www.pinestreetinn.org/about-us/home-remedy>

Friday, May 10

Eat Lunch Give — Women's Lunch Place

Location: Oriental Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental | Information about the event:
<https://womenslunchplace.org/eat-lunch-give>

Monday, May 13

Medicine that Matters Gala — Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Location: Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel | Information about the event:
<https://www.bhchp.org/events/2024-gala/>

Sunday, May 19

Elderbration — Friendship Works

Location: Jamaica Pond | Information about the event:
<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/elderbration2024/>

Wednesday, May 29

Spring Celebration — Catholic Charities

Location: Wharf Room, Boston Harbor Hotel | Information about the event:
<https://www.ccab.org/news-updates/catholic-charities-spring-celebration-2024/>

*For more information about any of these events,
please email our Hunger and Homelessness Ministry
at their parish email address.*



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This year, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) election will be held on the weekend of May 4/5. There are three seats to be filled, each for a 3-year term. This is an exciting and critical time for our parish and serving on the Parish Pastoral Council is a significant way of contributing to our vibrancy and growth. Please take the time to vote, and if you feel inspired, consider running for one of the open seats.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE PARISH COUNCIL?

- I. You must be a registered member of our community and at least eighteen years old. You can register by visiting our website at <https://www.stceciliaboston.org/joining-our-parish/> or by filling out a paper registration form in the narthex.
- II. You should already be an active participant in the life of the parish.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY?

Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. In addition to monthly meetings, members are expected to volunteer to lead or assist with occasional parish initiatives or activities. It is also expected that council members will participate in a variety of parish events and programs and be visible representatives of the parish community.

HOW CAN I BECOME A CANDIDATE?

Please prepare a brief statement (no longer than 150 words) that tells us about yourself and why you are interested in serving the parish as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Your statement should also include the following:

- *What Saint Cecilia Parish means to you.*
- *How long have you been a registered parishioner?*
- *What ministry/ministries are you involved in?*
- *What Mass do we typically see you at?*

This statement can be sent to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address and will be included in the bulletins for April 28 and May 5.

A headshot is also required.

Elections will be held on the weekend of May 4/5. If you cannot be present that weekend, you may submit your vote via e-mail at info@stceciliaboston.org until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 5.

SCHEDULE

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MATERIALS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO APRIL 21 (END OF DAY)

[DEADLINE EXTENDED] April 21 | Statements and headshots due to info@stceciliaboston.org
April 20/21 & 27/28 & May 4/5 | Biographies, platform statements, and headshots published in the parish bulletin
May 5 | Absentee ballots due no later than 1:00 p.m. via e-mail
May 4/5 | Election

**Completed materials or any questions can be sent
to Scott MacDonald at his parish email address.**



HOW JULIAN OF NORWICH'S WRITINGS ON
SUFFERING HAVE HELPED ME AS A CANCER PATIENT

BY GREGORY HILLIS

*"Since you have given Greg a
share in your own passion,
help him to find hope in suffering,
for you are Lord forever and ever."*

These were words I didn't expect to hear from my priest, certainly not words I expected to hear while lying in a hospital bed. Only two days before, I had felt fine as I gave out candy at Halloween—and ate candy that my kids procured from our neighbors. Now I was in the hospital receiving the Sacrament of Anointing, having been diagnosed with cancer of the bile ducts shortly after I came to the emergency room complaining of sudden pain in my right chest and shoulder.

It is jarring to sit in a fluorescent-lit room and be told you have cancer. I instantly ceased being a healthy middle-aged person who had never really suffered to being someone whose entire existence was now identified and threatened by a disease we all fear. But it was similarly jarring to hear a priest pray that I might "find hope in suffering," like having cancer was something I could or should acknowledge as a good thing.

As a theology professor, I have gone through the arguments about theodicy in the classroom, the question of how we can reconcile the reality of a God who is love and who is omnipotent with the existence of evil and suffering among God's creation. But I have done so in a necessarily dispassionate manner, as someone who hasn't actually experienced much in the way of genuine suffering.

The cancer diagnosis changed that. Two days after I had been admitted to the hospital for various tests and scans to determine the extent of the disease, my 12-year-old asked me a question that showed he was trying to wrestle with the reality of suffering himself, the suffering of having a father with a potentially terminal diagnosis: "Is it okay for me to be angry at God about this?" Anger in these circumstances is a normal response, an entirely appropriate response, and I told him so. His dad had cancer and he had a sense that God was somehow to blame.

Asking Why of God

This is a refrain I have heard frequently as a professor of theology. When I taught an introductory theology course at my previous institution, I would have students write spiritual autobiographies that outlined how they came to believe what they did about God and why. Many, probably most, of my students no longer practiced the religion in which they had been raised, and while the reasons for their non-affiliation were complex, how my students portrayed God was consistent. To their minds, and I think this conception of God is widespread, God causes everything—or at least allows bad things to occur. So when bad things happen to us or others, God is to blame.

It's no wonder they were angry and disillusioned.

Divine Love

A friend asked if he could bring anything to me at the hospital from my office, and I asked him to bring my copy of Julian of Norwich's *Showings*. Julian, a 14th-century mystic who lived as an anchoress in solitude in Norwich, England, is one of my favorite figures, and her book—sometimes called *Revelations of Divine Love*—is one I've read repeatedly. Although I couldn't put my finger on it at the time, I knew there was something in her book that I needed to read.

In this book, Julian recounts 16 mystical revelations she received on May 13, 1373, while sick in bed with what others thought was a mortal illness. After contemplating the meaning of these revelations over a 15-year period, Julian recorded in detail the meaning of what she saw.

As she explained in the final pages of *Showings*, the revelations were entirely about divine love. As God responded when asked about the meaning of what she saw, "Know it well, love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why does he reveal it to you? For love."

Throughout the book, Julian expounds on the experiences she had of God's tender and all-encompassing love for us. God's love for us is so "high, surpassing, [and] immeasurable"

that we cannot comprehend it. And yet this love for us is so intimate that Julian equates it with the love of a mother for her child, and famously calls God “our Mother in nature, our Mother in grace.”

But this experience of the profundity of God’s love led Julian to ask God the question that has plagued humanity for centuries: If God is love and loves us so deeply, then why do evil and suffering exist?

Julian received two responses to her question, the first being that God will perform a deed on the last day of the world by which God “will make all things well.” At another point, Jesus tells her, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” Precisely what this means is much debated, but Julian appears to understand by this phrase that God will ultimately overcome all evil, all sin and all suffering in such a way that humanity can and will experience the profound love of God.

It is clear that Julian took great comfort in these words. Indeed, she wrote that God uttered them because “God wishes us to be enclosed in rest and in peace.”

I will admit there is something comforting about the notion that God will ultimately make all things right, but it was not this that compelled me to ask for Julian of Norwich’s book in the hospital. For all the comfort that this idea brings, it doesn’t take into account those of us who are suffering *now*. What about those who, like me, have a potentially terminal diagnosis and are undergoing grueling treatment? What about those suffering in mind, body and spirit, whether it be through illness, oppression, poverty, war or the seemingly countless other ways people suffer? What is God doing *now*?

The Power of the Cross

Julian provides another response that I find more compelling, both in terms of what it tells me about God and what it tells me about how God relates to my suffering. Julian’s first few revelations, her first few mystical experiences, are of Jesus suffering on the cross. Julian occasionally goes into graphic detail as she watches Jesus die. She describes seeing blood streaming down Jesus’ head, “hot and flowing freely and copiously,” as well as seeing Jesus receive so many blows from the scourging that “everything seemed to be blood.” She recounts watching his skin wilt and change color as it took upon itself “a shriveled image of death,” about seeing the nail wounds expand and grow wide because of the weight of Jesus’ body, and about the ways in which his skin was scraped and broken into fragments by his wounds.

Julian intends her graphic account of Christ’s suffering to underline the depth of God’s love for us. She learned through these early revelations that God “is our clothing, who wraps and unfolds us for love, embraces us and shelters us, surrounds us for his life, which is so tender that he may never desert us.” God’s love is so profound that there is simply no way for us to comprehend it. It is so great that God refused to stand aloof from our suffering, watching it dispassionately from a distance. Instead, God became human and suffered, and in so doing, “he saw and he sorrowed for every [person’s] sorrow, desolation and anguish.”

And here is the kicker: Although he rose again and can no longer suffer, Julian still writes, “he suffers with us” even now when we suffer.

Suffering and Transcendence

There are strands within Catholicism that focus primary attention on the transcendence of God, God’s unchangeability and otherness. Even when celebrating the Eucharist, the focus is on the divinity of Jesus, such that the humility of the Incarnation seems sometimes to be forgotten as an inconvenient truth.

Divine transcendence is absolutely central to Christian theology, but it is central to our belief, particularly in light of the Incarnation. For it is when we understand the otherness of God that we can comprehend the depth of love on display in the person of Jesus Christ. Only when we affirm God’s impassibility—the idea that God cannot, in God’s divinity, experience suffering—can we have some comprehension of what it means to affirm that God experienced suffering in the person of Jesus Christ.

For understandable reasons, theologians have wanted to put all kinds of qualifiers on the idea of God’s suffering in Jesus. St. Cyril of Alexandria, for example, stated that, in Jesus Christ, God “suffered impassibly”; that is, without really suffering. I have to admit that I’m not all that interested in those qualifiers these days, and neither was Julian of Norwich. As a cancer patient, I’m more interested in a God who sympathizes with my sufferings, not from a distance, but who can accompany me as one who intimately knows what it means to suffer. I take most comfort right now in a God who suffered profoundly in Jesus Christ and, in some mysterious way, now suffers alongside me and alongside all who suffer.

In his memoir, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer*, the poet Christian Wiman wrote about coming to faith in the wake of a cancer diagnosis. There he wrote:

I am a Christian because of that moment on the cross when Jesus, drinking the very dregs of human bitterness, cries out, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* (I know, I know: he was quoting the Psalms, and who quotes a poem when being tortured. The words aren't the point. The point is that he felt human destitution to its absolute degree; the point is that God is *with us*, not beyond us, in suffering.)

This makes all kinds of sense to me in my current context. I may not have a theologically satisfying answer to why suffering occurs (in fact, I've yet to encounter a truly satisfying answer), but the Incarnation teaches us that God enters into our suffering and accompanies us as a parent accompanies and suffers alongside a suffering child. And it is this message that I communicated to my 12-year-old.

Anger with God in the face of suffering makes sense if we think of God as the cause of that suffering or if we perceive God to look upon our suffering with a kindly, but impotent, benevolence. But if we come to understand that God suffers alongside us as one who truly knows what it means to suffer, our anger morphs into love and our suffering mysteriously becomes a means of transformation.

~ *Gregory Hillis is the executive director of the Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the author of Man of Dialogue: Thomas Merton's Catholic Vision, published by Liturgical Press.*

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Are you or is someone you know searching for a spiritual home? Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be Catholic? If you would like to explore Catholicism or are already Catholic but have not yet received Eucharist, we would be honored to accompany you in your journey. For more information, contact Tanya Rybarczyk at 617-536-4548 X117.



 <p>Providing Care in a Volatile Time</p> <p>Webinar panel</p>	 <p>Adeline Azrack Fondation Chanel</p>	 <p>Miliane Clermont Health Equity Int'l</p>
 <p>Wesler Lambert Zanmi Lasante</p>	 <p>Jessica Laguerre Hôpital Albert Schweitzer</p>	 <p>David Ellis Haiti Air Ambulance</p>

HEALTH EQUITY INTERNATIONAL/ ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL EVENT

You're invited to join our nonprofit partner Health Equity International (HEI) on April 23 at 11:00 a.m. EDT for *Providing Care in a Volatile Time*, a panel discussion about the challenges of delivering health care in Haiti during the current crisis, how HEI, Zanmi Lasante, Hopital Albert Schweitzer Haiti, and Haiti Air Ambulance are still saving lives, and where we go from here. Register for free at <https://ow.ly/prGY50RbM0u>

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address

18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. & By Appointment
Phone | 617 536 4548; Fax | 617 536 1781
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ, Pastoral Support
Christine Burns, Digital and Print Media Coordinator
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate
Robert Duff, Director of Music
Carly-Anne Gannon, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Scott MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Visibility
Colleen Melaugh, Director of Finance and Development
Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien, Pastoral Director of Operations
Lisa Pickering, Director of Facilities and Events
Tanya Rybarczyk, Pastoral Associate

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Terrence Devino, SJ | Rev. Peter Grover, OMV | Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ

Music Ministry

Tyler Cesario, Assistant Director of Music
Daniel Lamoureux, Vigil Organist
Brett Maguire, Parish Organist
Pendexter Macdonald, Assistant Organist

Audiovisual Support

Maureen Deery, Parish Photographer & Creator of Weekly Slide Show
Geoffrey Edwards, Livestream Videographer
Vasily Izumchensky, Livestream Sound Engineer

Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.
* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

Building Accessibility

Both the church and Parish Hall Center are accessible by elevator.

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To get this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for Faith Formation, contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Carly-Anne Gannon, at her parish email.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIRTUS). They provide consultation and support to anyone who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Maria Roche, Le-titia Howland, or Erin Young if you have any questions. The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full policy is available in the narthex, Parish Office, and on our website.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

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Please note:

According to online safety guidelines released by the Archdiocese of Boston, we have removed email addresses from our online parish bulletin to avoid the danger of potential phishing scams. If you need a staff member's email address or ministry email address, please call our reception desk (617-536-4548) and our receptionists would be happy to pass along the appropriate information. Thank you for helping us maintain our parish security online!

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